

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03215 230925Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----230927 009112 /15
R 230916Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5821

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03215

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, MNUC, GW
SUBJECT: HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM FOR FRG -- HERMES'
DELEGATION VISIT

REF: A. BONN 02399 (EXDIS); B. BONN 01482 (PARA 13);
C. STATE 05956

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS THE
STATUS OF PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM.

2. BOTH STATE SECRETARY HAUNSCHILD, DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, WHO WAS ILL AT THE TIME
OF THE HERMES VISIT, AND PROFESSOR BECKURTS, DIRECTOR
OF THE FRG JUELICH NUCLEAR CENTER (DR. ENGLEMAN'S
CHIEF, SEE REF A) HAVE THE IMPRESSION FROM REPORTS
ON HERMES CONSULTATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT
NOT APPROVE GERMAN REQUESTS FOR HIGHLY-ENRICHED
URANIUM FOR USE IN THE THORIUM CYCLE, GAS COOLED,
HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTOR PROGRAM (PARA 13, REF B,
REF C, AND PRIOR REFERENCES). ON THE OTHER HAND,
ENGLEMAN HIMSELF INFORMED US THAT US TEAM HAD
REVIEWED DATA ON LOW-ENRICHMENT URANIUM EXPORTS, AS
EVIDENCE THAT USG IS A RELIABLE SUPPLIER, AND HAD
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PAGE 02 BONN 03215 230925Z

PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND EXPEDITE ACTION ON FRG
REQUESTS FOR HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU).

3. WE APPRECIATE THAT THE GERMAN-AMERICAN AGREEMENT
FOR COOPERATION IN GAS COOLED REACTOR CONCEPTS,
SIGNED FEBRUARY 11 IS ACCOMPANIED BY A SIDE LETTER
EMPHASIZING THE NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS OF THIS

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GERMAN THORIUM CYCLE AND OTHER CONCEPTS THAT MAY BE DEPENDENT UPON THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE THTR-300 COULD CONTRIBUTE POSSIBLE LONG-RANGE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROLIFERATION PROBLEM (FOR EXAMPLE, DENATURED U-233 AND THE ONCE-THROUGH-CYCLE).

4. WE WERE GLAD TO LEARN THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWED DATA WITH DR. ENGLEMAN WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT THE US IS A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM. HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY HERE. DENIAL OF GERMAN REQUESTS FOR HEU WOULD BE AN EMBARRASSING FOOTNOTE TO THE AGREEMENT MENTIONED ABOVE. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ACURRENT STATUS REPORT TO UPDATE REF C. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

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